

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-22 are pending in the present application. The issue in the current Office Action is as follows:

- Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0203437 (hereinafter *Burch*).

Applicant hereby traverses the rejection and requests reconsideration and withdrawal in light of the remarks contained herein.

II. Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of dependent claim 9. Since the amendment merely rewrites claim 9 in independent form, the amendment does not narrow the scope of original claim 9.

Claim 10 is amended to include the features of dependent claim 17. Since the amendment merely rewrites claim 17 in independent form, the amendment does not narrow the scope of original claim 17.

Claim 18 is amended to include the features of dependent claim 23. Since the amendment merely rewrites claim 23 in independent form, the amendment does not narrow the scope of original claim 23.

Claim 19 is amended to correctly depend from claim 18. Since the amendment merely corrects a typographical error, no new matter is added, and the amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim.

Claims 9, 17, and 23 are canceled without prejudice.

III. Claim Rejection

A. 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) Rejection (*Burch*)

On pages 2-7, claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Burch*. As discussed further below, *Burch* does not teach every element of the claims.

Specifically, claim 1 recites, in part, “wherein the means for diffusing includes means for determining a relative staleness of a set of configuration data stored in the distributed devices.” *Burch* does not teach this feature because it does not appear to teach determining a relative staleness of configuration data.

In rejecting claim 9 (wherein this feature was originally presented), the Office Action asserts that the feature is taught in paragraph [0051]. Paragraph [0051] appears to describe a multitude of probes forming a network and interacting with each other. However, nothing in paragraph [0051] appears to teach (or even appears to be relevant to) the above-recited feature because it does not appear to mention relative staleness of configuration data. Therefore, it is believed that the *Burch* does not teach the above-recited feature of amended claim 1.

Claim 10 recites, in part, “wherein the step of diffusing includes the step of determining a relative staleness of different sets of configuration data.” For the same reasons articulated above with respect to claim 1, it is believed that claim 10 is also allowable over the cited art.

Claim 18 recites, in part, “wherein the means for diffusing includes means for determining a staleness of the configuration data.” For the same reasons articulated above with respect to claim 1, it is believed that claim 18 is also allowable over the cited art.

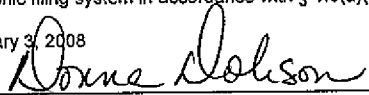
Dependent claims 2-8, 11-16, and 19-22 each depend either directly or indirectly from respective independent claims 1, 10, and 18 and, thus, inherit all of the limitations of their respective independent claims. Thus, *Burch* does not teach all claim limitations of claims 2-8, 11-16, and 19-22. It is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 2-8, 11-16, and 19-22 are allowable at least because of their dependence from their respective base claims for the reasons

discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18-22.

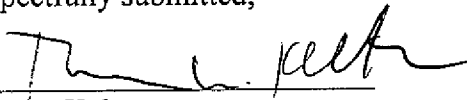
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1078, under Order No. 10040199-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).	
Dated: January 3, 2008	
Signature: <u>Donna Dobson</u> (Donna Dobson)	

Respectfully submitted,

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